the widening gap between its demand and supply; and

(d) if so, what other steps Government propose to take to save the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) "While the nitrogenous fertilizer industry has not been affected, the phosphatie fertilizer units which depend on imported intermediates, have been partially affected due to the Gulf War.

(b) The prices of Naphtha and other petroleum products used for feitilizer production have gone up on account of 25 per cent Gulf Surcharge, Similarly, the price o'f imported ferti lizers is also showing an upward trend. However, the selling price of fertilizer has not been increased in the country.

(c) Fertilizers will be imported, as hitherto, to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and indigenous supply.

(d) No other steps are under consi-deration at present in this regard.

Amendment of building bye-laws in Delhi

41. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOP-* MENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently asked the Delhi Administration to review the decision amending the buildng bye-laws in the capital;

(b) if so, by when the Delhi Ad-ministration would submit its detailed report to Government;

(c) what changes are likely to be made in the building bye-laws; and

(d) to what extent it would curb mushroom growth of illegal constructions in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question of revising the recent amendment to the Building Bye-laws in Delhi is under examination.

Fire in Delhi bound Rajdhani Express

42. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Bound Rajdhani Express which left Bombay on the 20/21-1-1991 has caught fire;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident; and

(c) the loss of life and property as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Vestibule provided between coach Nos. C4 and C5 caught fire while running beween Kosamba Jn. and Panoli stations in Vadodara Division.

(b) The fire is suspected to be caused by burning cigarette butts inadvertently thrown by passengers.

(c) There was no loss of life. Loss of railway property is estimated to be Rs. 460/-.

Assistance to Housing Boards of various States

43. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOP MENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a; fact that the State Housing Boards have been get-

ting assistance from the Centre to build houses;

(b) whether all the State Housing Boards have been recognised by the Central Government;

(c) if not, what are the names of the State Housing Boards not recognised by the Central Government and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether every State Housing Board is to be treated equally; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to stop discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) No direct assistance is available from Central Government to the State Housing Boards to build houses. Financial assistance to the Housing Boards is provided in Annual Plans of State Governments according to their priorities. However, national financial institutions including HUDCO and commercial banks provide loans to Housing Boards.

(b) to (e) The State Housing Boards have been constituted by the respective State Govts, under State legislation and hence the question of their recognition by the Central Govt, or of any discrimination does not arise.

Drought Prone Areas

44. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the drought-prone areas in the different States;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for assisting farmers in the drought-prone areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it has been implemented in Orissa and if so, to what extent farmers have been benefited as a result thereof in that State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHR JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH); (a) to (d) The Drought Prone Areas Programme operates in 91 districts of 13 States. the details of which are placed at Annexure.

[See Appendix CLVII, Annexure No. 3]

Under the programme., activities relating to soil conservation, land development, water resources conservation and development, afforestation and pasture etc. are taken up within an identified watershed and subsidies are available for specified activities for eligible categories of farmers on the basis of norms laid down.

The programme is under implementation in Orissa in 39 blocks of 4 districts namely, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Sambalpur. The financial and physical achievements under this programme in Orissa for the last 3 years are given at Annexures II & III.

[See Appendix CLVII, Annexure No. 3]

Review of Crop Insurance Scheme

45. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, on what lines;

(c) by when the above scheme is proposed to be reviewed; and

(d) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE